

MIRAGE

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I do not know if it ever existed--
That lost world floating dimly on Time's stream--
And yet I see it often, violet-misted,
And shimmering at the back of some vague dream.
There were strange towers and curious lapping rivers,
Labyrinths of wonder, and low vaults of light,
And bough-crossed skies of flame, like that which quivers
Wistfully, just before a winter's night.

Great moors led off to sedgy shores unpeopled,
Where vast birds wheeled, while on a windswept hill
There was a village, ancient and white-steeped,
With evening chimes for which I listen still.
I do not know what land it is--or dare
Ask when or why I was, or will be, there.

.....H.P. Lovecraft*

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MALIGNANT LOVE

Far worse than any virus-borne disease
Are ravages of love that's unreturned;
It gnaws, unseen, like cancer at the heart,
Until that tortured musculature stops,
The blood grows dark and stagnant in the veins,
So that in airless calm the brain cells die
And quench at last their horrid memories,
Like city lights extinguished, one by one.

.....John E. Vetter